

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully requested this amendment be entered as it is believed no new issues have been raised. In particular, independent claims 1 and 23 have been amended to include some subject matter similar to that as recited in previously examined dependent claims 11 and 22.

Claims 1, 3-21, 23 and 26-30 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 22, 24 and 25 have been cancelled, claims 1 and 23 have been amended to clarify the invention according to U.S. practice, and claims 29 and 30 have been added by the present amendment.

In the final Office Action, claims 1, 3-19, 21-25 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Soma et al. in view of Tomioka et al.; claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Soma et al., Tomioka et al. and Moseley et al.; and claims 20, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Soma et al. in view of Tomioka et al. and Sugai.

Claims 1, 3-19, 21-25 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Soma et al. in view of Tomioka et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present application currently includes independent claims 1 and 23. Further, independent claim 1 has been amended to include some subject matter similar to that as recited in dependent claims 11 and 22. For example,

independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the method includes, inter alia, providing, upon selection of the first one of the events that will extend beyond the scheduled duration, a graphic user interface (GUI) including a first field for identifying an amount of the overrun, a second field for identifying the number of said events that will delayed by the amount of overrun, and a third field for selectively identifying whether a last event of the identified number of events or an event immediately following the last event is to be truncated by the amount of the overrun. Independent claim 23 includes similar features in a varying scope.

As shown in the non-limiting example of Fig. 4 of the present application, for example, a graphical user interface (GUI) is provided which allows a user or station manager to enter the amount the first event will overrun by, the number events affected by the overrun, and a check box which can identify whether the last event is to be truncated or the event immediately following the last event is to be truncated (see also page 8, line 25 to page 9, line 2). That is, the user or station manager can easily and selectively determine which events are to be delayed or truncated.

For example, as shown in Fig. 5, all of the events 160-165 are delayed by the NBA basketball game, which started at 17:30, and the user or station manager has determined that the news program at 2300 hours is to be truncated. It is particularly advantageous for the user or station manager to be able to selectively determine what show to truncate, because which station is to be truncated likely varies on a day-to-day basis. For example, if there was a

hurricane approaching a relevant broadcast location, the station manager may determine that the news program should not be truncated, but rather that the Saturday Night Live program should be truncated. According to the present invention, the user or station manager can easily do this via the provided GUI.

Regarding the subject matter recited in dependent claim 11 (as noted above, independent claims 1 and 23 have been amended to include some features similar to that as recited in dependent claim 11), the Office Action recognizes Soma et al. in view of Tomioka et al. does not teach or suggest these features and takes official notice that is well known to perform these procedures. However, it is respectfully noted the present invention specifically teaches specific advantages in which the station manager or user is allowed to selectively and easily decide which program is to be truncated via the GUI. For example, as noted at page 4, lines 15-24, the invention makes it possible for last-minute schedule changes to be implemented, easily and with much less stress. The invention also makes it possible for an operator with almost no knowledge of the A/65 Standard to update the schedule information armed simply with an instruction to "overrun the football game by 20 minutes and shift the next three events after that." With no more than four or five mouse clicks, the task can be accomplished, the new start and end times can be automatically and accurately derived, and the new piece of data encoded and provided to the broadcast stream, i.e., the digital television multiplex.

Accordingly, in light of the above comments, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1 and 23 and the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Further, it is respectfully submitted the other rejections noted in the office action have also been overcome as the additional references of Moseley et al. and Sugai also do not teach or suggest the above-noted features or the combinations thereof.

In addition, new claims 29 and 30 have been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope and Applicants submit the new claims are supported by the originally filed specification. It is respectfully submitted these new claims further define over the applied art.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and earnestly solicits an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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